

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**  
**PROCLAMATION**

EO 00-09

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
“CHARITABLE CHOICE” PROVISION IN THE 1996 FEDERAL WELFARE LAW.

WHEREAS, the State Of Arkansas enjoys a rich diversity of private and faith-based charities that render effective and focused aid to people in need; and

WHEREAS, these groups achieve impressive results by evoking personal responsibility, transforming lives, and injecting moral and spiritual resources that are beyond government’s know-how; and

WHEREAS, Arkansans recognize that government need not be the first nor the only provider of assistance to those in need; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed and the President signed, on August 22, 1996, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (the “Act”), which devolves welfare authority to the states and gives Arkansas an opportunity to fashion a welfare system that best serves all needy Arkansans; and

WHEREAS, section 104 of the Act contains a “charitable choice” provision that encourages states to involve private and faith-based groups as providers of services to the needy while expressly protecting the religious character of participating providers and the religious freedom of their recipients;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Huckabee, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby direct all pertinent executive branch agencies to: (i) take all necessary steps to implement the “charitable choice” provision of the federal welfare law; and (ii) take affirmative steps prescribed by the Act to protect the religious integrity and the functional autonomy of participating faith-based providers and the religious freedom of their beneficiaries. Affected agencies shall file a written report with the Office of the Governor on the implementation status of the “charitable choice” provision by May 1, 2001.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 25th day of October in the year of our Lord, two thousand.



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GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

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SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST